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Natura-Naturans

These verses, read at a breakfast of the Clerical Club in Boston, September 24, 1885, in honor of Phillips Brooks, now Bishop of Massachusetts, on his return from Europe, are published by the Boston "Saturday Gazette," which says they are supposed to have been written by the Rev. Dr. W. R. Huntington, of Worcester, now rector of Grace Church, New York:

Natura, mistress of the earth,
A study hath, they say,
Where, century by century,
She sitteth modeling clay.

Fast as the images are wrought
Her lattice wide she throws,
And on the ample window-sill
Arranges them in rows.

A sprightly critic happening by
One idle summer's morn,
Made bold to chaff the lady fair,
In half good-natured scorn.

"Natura! Bona Dea!" said he,
"I'm bored to death to find
What everlasting sameness marks
These products of your mind.

"These men you sculpture into form
Might just as well be rolled;
Peas in a pod are not more like,
Nor bullets from one mold.

"Dear Lady, quit the ancient way,
Retake the point of view;
Do differentiate a bit,
Evolve us something new."

Piqued was the goddess at that word,
Revengeful flashed her eye,
While all the artist in her rose,
To give his taunt the lie.

"I'll show you something new," she said;
"I'll teach you how it looks."
She plunged her fingers in the clay
And modeled—Phillips Brooks!

—*Springfield Republican.*

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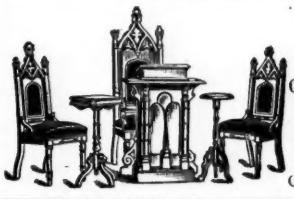
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